

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

July/August 2013



***The Music Man* by Dennis Szatkowski**

After nearly 3 months of rehearsals, a very successful run of “The Music Man” came to a close at the end of last Sunday’s matinee. Even though we endured a somewhat rocky start, the production evolved into a very fine show and with each performance, I grew prouder and prouder of all the talented cast that made the show great! The newcomers commented how much they loved being involved and I’m sure we will see several of them trying out for future productions. As it is with all shows, emotions were melancholy Sunday as we were all cleaning up and leaving the building saying our goodbyes to one another.

When I suggested repeating this large musical that we originally did 27 years ago in 1986 and when I agreed to direct it, I had 3 main reasons or goals in mind. I am happy to say that I feel all 3 goals were accomplished. My 3 goals were to: do a larger show that would bring new talent of all ages into our theatre group; to do a show that people in our community would be somewhat familiar with and produce sellout crowds; to be successful and therefore profitable to our theatre. The production yielded many newcomers to our stage and several of them have said they want to become members of TBP. I am also sure that we will see many of them on stage again in future shows. We did have sellout crowds at most of our performances and while keeping expenses very low, the show produced a nice profit for TBP.

At the awards dinner following teardown, I presented a brand new award to 3 members in the cast. I had suggested the implementation of this award to the board some time ago and suggested that it be up to the discretion of each director if they wanted to use it or not at the close of future productions. I gave the award a name in honor of one of our long standing, very talented members. My suggestion and intent of the award was twofold. 1). To have a positive reward that directors could give that would recognize the contributions of someone in the cast that “stood out” or contributed positive things in some way. 2). To give it a name in honor of someone in our own group who has contributed so much in their own way. The thought behind it wasn’t to necessarily give it to a lead character (although it certainly could be)..... but to give it to someone who really had some real positive effect on the production, in whatever capacity they filled. It could be for acting or it could go to someone who did anything that “stood out” during the course of the show. I suggested the award be called the “Michal Jacot Comedy and Tragedy Award”. In suggesting the award, it was never meant in any way to slight, or to diminish any contributions of anyone else who has contributed so much of themselves to our group over the years. I suggested it because of the unique contributions to TBP that I have seen Michal give over the years. I’ve seen him do roles that made me laugh hysterically and I have seen him in roles that made tears roll down my cheeks, thus, the “Comedy & Tragedy” portion of the title. Being an accomplished actor and playwright and long standing member from the earliest days of the group also prompted me to suggest this award in his name. Well, I was the first director to give the award and actually, I gave it to three members of the cast, not just one. The award was given to Sunny Ragan for always being there and for filling in for numerous members of the cast who were absent at different times and always saying “yes” with a big smile, every time I asked her to help. The award was given to Jane Hackborn, a newcomer to our stage, for her wonderful character and taking a positive lead in many situations. Even though this was her very first time on stage, she was a shining star in the cast and a positive influence on others. The award was also given to Nick Robinson for the outstanding way he took ownership of the many scene changes, in light of the shortages of others to help out. His outstanding dedication to do things right had a huge, positive impact on the show. I hope that other directors in the future will utilize this award to recognize positive contributions in their shows. In closing, I am very proud of the show and of all the people that made it a big success!!!!

Tawas Bay Players Summer Show by Deb DeBois

The cast and crew are working hard to be ready for our summer Dress Rehearsal, July 10th and opening night of our summer show, *Drinking Habits*, by Tom Smith. The show dates are July 12-14 and 18-21 at 7pm nightly (no Sunday matinees during the summer). Please come and enjoy the show!

The cast features Sue Dowell as Sister Philamena, Taura Williamson as Sister Augusta, Sharon Langley playing Mother Superior, Travis Pearce as George, the handyman/gardener, Alicia Sgambelluri as Sally, Jonathon Shaffer as Paul, Lynn Phillips playing Father Chenille, and Gabby Morris playing Sister Mary Catherine. Directing the production will be Deb DeBois and acting as Assistant Director will be Taura Williamson. Deb and Taura are also Co-Producing the production.

The action of the play takes place at the convent of The Sisters of Perpetual Sewing where two of the nuns have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, creates paranoia throughout the convent with the belief that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves. Accusations, mistaken identities, and romance runs wild in this traditional laugh out loud farce.

We would like to thank the tech crew for their hard work. Stage Manager - Will Williamson, Props - Sue Duncan, Costumes - June Groff & Jennifer Maser, Set Design - Deb DeBois, Taura Williamson, Chris Mundy, Set Construction - Chris Mundy, Allan Dalton & Lynn Phillips, Light Design - Chris Mundy, Light Tech - Jayme Nunn, Sound Consultant - Ray Skiver, Sound Tech - Reesie Smith, Set Painting - Craig Sayer, Set Dressing - Deb DeBois, Taura Williamson, Craig Sayer & Sue Duncan, Publicity - Deb DeBois & Tim Haskin, House Manager/Refreshments - Kay Robson, Tickets - Vickie Szatkowski, Judy Quarters, Eileen Brewer, Sally Krueger & June Groff, Cast Photos/Programs - Pat Casey, Poster/Program Art - Michal Jacot, Photographers - Pam Frank & Jane Mundy, Display Boards - Jane Mundy, Music Theme-Sharon Drury, Ushers/Refreshment Hosts-TBP members.

***Sleeping Beauty, Our Fall Show* by Pat Casey**

The classic *Sleeping Beauty* will come to life on our stage this fall. It's a musical with a little bit of a twist but still has the basic storyline. The leads consist of 6 women and 4 men. All have solos and group songs. There will also be parts for chorus (servants, thorn people, etc.). The chorus sings quite a few numbers and will be kept busy. The only available accompaniment is cd, so cd it is. No pit for this show. If you'd like to read a copy of the script, it will be attached to the newsletter as a pdf file. June Hudgins will be directing and Pat Casey will be doing the music.

Tryouts will be Tuesday/Wednesday, July 30th/31st at 6:30 p.m. Show dates are October 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20.

We won't officially start rehearsing until the week of August 12th but there is a youth production in the theater the first week of August and I'd rather have you get your scripts/music and have a week to look it over before we hit the ground running.

Raffle On!!! by Deb DeBois



Can you believe this is our 14th Annual Summer Raffle? Sometimes it seems only yesterday that we started this thing. Well this year we are in full swing with members selling fast and furious (Yeah, Bob!) and events occurring during the end of May and June. We still have a longggg waaay toooo goooooo!!!

Our raffle prizes this year are the same as last year – a John Deere-D130 Lawn Tractor, an LG 50" TV and Blu-Ray theater system, a 42,000 BTU Weber Gas Grill w/ cover, cooking utensils, and meat thermometer, and a Cash Prize of \$100 and Two Season Tickets. Our costs are down by about \$150 this year, but remember we still have to make around \$3200 before we start to show a profit. The raffle goes from now until the end of September with the drawing on the 30th at WKJC during morning drive time.

Please if anyone wants to help sell at any location or if you need **more tickets to sell**, contact me at 362-6800. I have included a list of the dates and locations for the summer so everyone will know where to find me. We can make good money to help keep our theater going, to pay for scripts and sets if we all pull together and sell.

**GO OUT AND DO IT!!! LET THE THEATER FORCE BE WITH YOU!!!
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!!! TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT!!! GET IT DONE!!!**

2013 Raffle Dates & Locations

July 4 & 6.....	Neiman's – 10-6	Aug 23.....	Blues Fest – 5-9:30pm
July 13.....	Farm Market – 7:30-1:00	Aug 24.....	Blues – 1:30-10:00
July 14.....	Car Show, Newman St – 8:30-3	Aug 25.....	Blues – 11:30-4
July 20.....	Farm Market – 7:30-1:00	Aug 26.....	Neiman's – 10-4
July 22.....	Neiman's – 10-4	Aug 31-Sept 1.....	Labor Day Art, East Tawas – 8:30-5
July 27.....	Farm Market – 7:30-1:00	Sept 7.....	Ladies Softball, Dewey Durant – 1-5
July 29-Aug 2.....	Iosco County Fair – 3-9:30	Sept 7.....	Farm Market – 7:30-1:00
Aug 3-4.....	Fine Art Show, Tawas City Park – 9:30-5	Sept 8.....	Ladies Softball – 9-5
Aug 5.....	Neiman's – 10-4	Sept 9.....	Neiman's – 10-4
Aug 8-9.....	ET Sidewalk Sales – 8:30-5	Sept 14.....	Farm Market – 7:30-1:00
Aug 10-11.....	Sand Lake Festival – 10-6	Sept 21.....	Hale Balloon Festival – 9-9
Aug 17.....	Farm Market – 7:30-1:00	Sept 22.....	Hale Balloon Festival – 9-3
Aug 19.....	Neiman's – 10:00-4:00	Sept-23.....	Neiman's – 10-4
Aug 24.....	Farm Market – 7:30-1:00		

Talent!!! Wow!!! By Suzan Witt

Tawas Bay Performing Arts will be presenting *The Pirates of Penrith* written by Andy Johnson. Directed by Suzan Witt, the performances will be at Tawas Bay Playhouse. The Preview Performance will be Thursday, August 8th at 7:00 p.m. Opening night will be Friday, August 9th at 7:00 p.m. with a Stars' Reception for the public to follow (location TBD). There will also be a performance on Saturday, August 10th at 7:00pm and a Sunday matinee at 2:00 p.m. on August 11th with set strike and awards banquet to follow.

Auditions were held June 4th & 5th and they were incredible. We had so much fun!!! We laughed and learned! We saw facial expressions that were worth a million bucks!!! We have incredibly talented youth in our town. There are 30 plus parts in the play (cast list below). This play is from the UK; it is a cute story about retired pirates that are wasting away in a retirement home until Granny Knot arrives to break them out for an adventurous treasure hunt. This treasure may not be the obvious. The script is full of colorful characters, double entendres, and quirky situations.

Our objectives are to teach the kids about basic theater principles, the production process and to have fun so they want to do it again!!! We will largely be focusing on becoming other characters and maintaining that character through the entire play. The children will be using many of their own ideas to create their character. Scripts have already been distributed. Rehearsals start July 9th. We are thrilled with the support from the parents and the community. All of the parents have agreed to help in some fashion. We could not do it without them!!!!

Jolly Rogers.....	Thomas Bruning	Konny Grant.....	Granny Knot
Mabel Thorpe.....	Kristine Kubisiak	Dr. Tuttle-Nutter.....	Kately Shattuck
John Dorey.....	Alexi Wade	Sue Narmi.....	Kaylee Keams
Inga Mells.....	McKayla Thompson	Christopher Wave.....	Ryan Kaiserman
Bluerinse the Pirate.....	Alec Schley	Ebb.....	Charlotte Foether
Juan Ferdy Monay.....	Ryan Kaiserman	Flo.....	Grace Schlegel
Duva Di Sho.....	Jade Archambault	Flotsam.....	Katie Gorman
Freda Getreddi.....	Audrey Diem	Jetsam.....	Wylie Duda
Andy Gogogo.....	Kallie Jordan	Macawley.....	Archer Klenow
Pepsicolabotl.....	Nathan Smedley	Gillie Mott.....	Brook Archambault
Gottalottabotl.....	Colleen Kubisiak	Captain Mishap.....	Zach Dalton
Popakettlon.....	Arina Wade	Sir Kit Breaker.....	Carter Chrivia
Policeman 1.....	Alex Keams	Nurse Shark.....	Lauren Langley
Policeman 2.....	Megan Duda.	Davina Jones.....	Shea Bryant
Tourist.....	Maddi Allan	Janine Tonic.....	Alexandra Perrot

Director: Suzan Witt
Producers: Tina Dalton and Janie Mundy,
Set Painting: Diane Ray*, Suzan Witt
Set Construction: Alan Dalton*, Pete Archambault, Dave Witt,
Properties: Karlene Falker*
Costumes: Janie Mundy*, Sharon Langley, Diane Ray,
Sound: Dave Dunham*
Sound Tech: Paul Maynard
Lights: Suzan Witt*

Light Tech: Gatlyn Dunham
Publicity: Dana Gorman, Amanda Walker
Photography: Sorohana
Stars' reception and cast parties: Suzette Wade*
Stage Manager: Brianna Dalton
Tickets: Karlene Falker, Anne Williams, Kim Kaems,
Sharon Langley
House Manager: Tammy Crowder*
Head Usher: Frankie Crowder
* Crew Heads

TBPA is also offering a Basic Acting class and a Stage Make-up class for the kids starting July 19th. We will be offering Improvisation for teenagers after the 4th of July. We also have a Dance for Musical Theater starting after the 4th of July. Like us on Facebook or check out our web page www.tawasbayperformingarts.com

T.B.P. Singers Stay Busy This Summer

The Singers performed again this summer for our favorite audience, the Women's Bowling Association, on June 14th in Livonia this time. Their theme was Motown this year and they chose our 50 /60s program. We added a bit extra and ended with Chris performing "RESPECT". The ladies always really enjoy our show and they just love Chris (and Bob).



The following week we started our "Concerts in the Park" at the East Tawas City Park. We had a small but enthusiastic group and a beautiful night. We have two more shows in East Tawas and one in Oscoda yet to go. Bring your lawn chair and friends and come on out for a little musical entertainment. We will perform a different show each time. Thanks to Mary Ann Michalski for the photo.

Summer Schedule

July 18th - Thursday - East Tawas Park - 7 p.m.
August 1st - Thursday - East Tawas Park - 7 p.m.
August 15th - Thursday - Oscoda On The Beach - 7 p.m.

The Second Annual Park and Sell by Diane Ray



On Saturday, May 25th the Tawas Bay Players held their second annual Park & Sell which was even more successful than the first. Although cooler weather prevailed, the sun was shining on the vendors selling everything from antiques and jewelry to lawn mowers'

Spearheaded by Diane Ray and Janie Mundy, the sale netted a profit of \$280 that will be used to purchase tools and supplies for the theater. Donations to the Players earned \$104 and the sale of baked goods and beverages brought in \$48. We sold 14 spaces this year at \$10 each for a total of \$140.

Special thanks to Deb DeBois, Tara Western, Phyllis Spencer, Mary Kiernan, Craig Sayer, Sharon Langley, Melissa Eldred, George Robson, Deane & Norm Halstead, Donna Bessey, June Groff, Sue Duncan and Chris Mundy.

It's not too soon to start putting aside your sale items for next year. Memorial Day Weekend is being reserved for our next big sale. Thank you to everyone who helped or made a donation.

Tawas Community Band by Penny LeClair

The Tawas Community Concert Band will present its annual summer "Concerts-in-the-Park" series on Monday evenings, beginning June 10. The concerts, weather permitting, are held in the East Tawas City Park, near the gazebo. Concerts in June and July begin at 7:30 p.m. and start at 7 p.m. in August. Put us on your calendar!



Under the direction of John Thomas, the band will play a variety of marches, show tunes, polkas, blues, and patriotic pieces by composers such as Cole Porter, John Philip Sousa, Glenn Miller, Henry Mancini, Gershwin, and many more. All members of the band are "recreational musicians" who donate their time and expertise to make wonderful music together to entertain the summer audiences. Looking forward to seeing you there!

TBP Picnic & Annual Meeting



What: TBP Annual Membership Dinner/Meeting

When: Saturday, August 17, 2013 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Tom Dillon Park, at the corner of Smith St. and Woodlawn in East Tawas

Our first Annual Picnic went very well so we will do it again this year, with a few improvements. The Players will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, plates, cups, silverware and ice. Each member/member family is asked to bring whatever you would like to drink (alcohol is permitted) and a dish to pass to serve 10 – 12. We are asking those with last names beginning with the letters A-G to bring a salad (i.e. tossed, fruit, vegetable, Jello), those beginning with the letters H-N to bring some kind of side dish or casserole (baked beans, rice, potatoes, etc) and if your last name begins with the letters O-Z please bring a dessert.

The meeting, election of Board Members and selection of the Founders' Award winner will be held immediately following dinner. Board members up for reelection this year are Keith Frank, Pat Casey and Tim Haskin. If anyone is interested in running for one of these board seats please call or email Keith Frank so he can prepare the ballots. Please see the article below about voting requirements.

Please call or email Keith or Pam Frank (362-8492, p.frank@charter.net) no later than August 14, 2013 to let us know how many will attend and whether you prefer hamburgers or hot dogs to eat. We need help the day of the picnic with setup and cleanup and we need someone to take charge of decorations. Thank you to Penny Zacharias and Tara Western for already volunteering. Please let us know if you can help too.

Membership Voting by Keith Frank

The board wanted to clarify the bylaws in regard to voting at meetings. As I mentioned last year at the annual meeting, we have not been following our bylaws regarding membership voting requirements. For as long as I can remember, individuals who joined or renewed their membership at the annual meeting could vote at that meeting. However, that practice is contrary to our bylaws. Tawas Bay Player bylaws state:

Section 3. Termination of Membership

The membership of each Tawas Bay Player shall terminate annually at the end of the annual meeting.

Section 4. Voting Rights

4a. Voting shall be restricted to **active** members at the annual meeting or any special meetings called by the Board of Directors. To be eligible to vote, you must be an active member 45 days prior to the meeting.

You must have paid your 2012-2013 dues by July 3, 2013 to be eligible to vote at this year's annual meeting. However, everyone who joins or renews their membership at the annual meeting this year will be eligible to vote next year.

Term Limits by Keith Frank

At this year's annual meeting, one of the things that we will be discussing (and perhaps voting on) is whether or not there should be term limits for the TBP Board of Directors. Tara Western submitted a letter to the Board suggesting that we consider this. I told her that in addition to bringing it to the board's attention, I thought it should also go to the general membership for consideration as well. Our current board agreed so I am including a copy of the letter in this edition of the newsletter. Please take the time to read over Tara's letter and after you read it, think about whether you feel that term limits would be good or bad for the Tawas Bay Players. Then bring your thoughts and any concerns you may have to the annual meeting and we will discuss the idea. Here is Tara's letter:

Dear TBP Board,

Recently I have seen the need for a change in not only my Tawas City Library Friends but also the IADL (Iosco Arenac District Library) Board, both of which I am involved with. Recently, I resigned from the board of the IADL. I had been on the board for 23 years, and although I enjoyed it, I felt it was time for some new perspectives.

Neither the Friends nor the IADL have term limits. Politically, I don't believe in them. I put my faith in the voting public; wrongly at times.....note Detroit and Flint. Usually if a lawmaker needs to go, the voters will see that he or she goes!

But small towns are different. I have been president of the Friends since I started the group in the fall of 2006. While I was in Florida for three months I learned that they can get along without me just fine. Hard for the ego in a way but actually gratifying and freeing. Because of that I am looking into suggesting term limits with the Friends, and I really think that the TBP can benefit from them too.

Organizations need new ideas, fresh perspectives, and new workers. Although we all tend to think we are indispensable, we aren't. I really believe that TBP would benefit from term limits, and I'd like to see the conversation begin this summer, so possibly, a vote to change the bylaws could take place at the annual meeting in August.

For an easy transition, three members could leave the board after serving three years. They could run again after one year, but it would give new members a chance to take their turn.

Sincerely,

Tara Western, member since 1979

Board of Directors by Keith Frank

It's time again to think about running for the Board of Directors. Your current Board of Directors is as follows: Keith Frank (President), June Hudgins (Vice President), Pat Casey (Treasurer), Vickie Szatkowski (Recording Secretary), and Deb DeBois (Corresponding Secretary). The remaining members (who were too chicken to accept an executive position on the board) are Judy Quarters, Chris Mundy, Penny Zacharias and Tim Haskin. This year the three board seats up for election are Keith Frank, Pat Casey and Tim Haskin. So if you have ever thought you would like to serve on the board, now is your chance. Just contact Keith (362-8492 or k.frank@charter.net) and let him know so he can add your name to this year's ballot. Of course nominations are always taken from the floor during the meeting so you can nominate a member that you think would do a good job on the board.

TBP Board Contact Information

Keith Frank – President	362-8492	k.frank@charter.net
June Hudgins – Vice President/House Manager	362-8423	jhudgins8423@charter.net
Vickie Szatkowski – Secretary	362-6419	densden2@yahoo.com
Pat Casey – Treasurer/Singers	362-6012	pcasey@chartermi.net
Debra DeBois – Corresponding Secretary	362-6800	debois@charter.net
Chris Mundy	362-9199	daddoo10@hotmail.com
Penny Zacharias	739-1903	pzac7@yahoo.com
Judy Quarters	362-8463	judykq@hotmail.com
Tim Haskin	362-4978	tawastim@yahoo.com

Area Thespians Attend AACT Fest in Carmel, Indiana by Tara Western

Ginny McCarthy, Sandy Schorfharr, Vincent Weiler and I took part in the American Association of Community Theater's National play festival. We arrived on Wednesday, June 19 in time to see the first two one-hour cuttings of plays, then ten more through Friday. See below for two articles:

Putting More Butts in the Seats!

Expecting the typical "how to use social media" for new marketing strategies, I was pleasantly surprised by the fresh new ideas that I learned from "Putting More Butts in the Seats, and "Marketing Communications for the Theater." (Note to self: the more boring titled workshop was better!)

I hope to share my knowledge with the Boards of the Tawas Bay Players and Shoreline in the near future, but for now some highlights.

People today, including our patrons, expect more from their entertainment venues: quality, a unique experience and individualized attention. Service, because of present day technology, has become much more personal. Think Facebook, websites etc. that can be tailored to specific needs. People expect not only advertising delivered to them personally but a complete and unique experience, from dinner before to parking to comfort at the theater. When we think of all the competition we face in terms of entertainment, just getting people off the couch is a challenge!

Lots of ideas were shared but in a nutshell, theater groups have to change their publicity focus. Identifying and reaching our audience in small groups (as opposed to the broad brush approach with ads, and flyers) is the future of public relations. Reaching out to our "next best" audience i.e. folks that attend other art/cultural events is one area to explore. In Iosco County that means our local music, museum, art, library and dance of events. We are very lucky that we have so many groups of this ilk in our small area.

Some ideas for reaching out:

- Read the play at a local library or museum for free. (one in the group did this and I was supposed to find him later and pick his brain, and I never ran into him again.....:(
- Early show for the working force. (This one group could only use their venue at 4:30 because of parking---they did a show then and did very well. People liked the fact that they could leave work, see the show, eat afterwards, and still be home in time for "Dancing with the Stars"!)
- "Pay what you can" night
- Invite other non-profit groups to provide refreshments and ushers
- Get email addresses of all patrons and send reminders.
- Free or discounted tickets to bartenders and hair dressers for opening night (who might talk to more people on a daily basis--great word of mouth!)
- Author's note: we talked about the fact that word of mouth is wonderful, but very often, you end up with empty seats the first weekend and SRO the second weekend.
- Have a Pre-glow on opening night with invited guests.....serve appetizers and champagne.
- Post rehearsal photos on Facebook and tag new potential audience members.

Whoa! I can hear the nay-sayers: we can't do _____ because we _____. Or, "we've always done it this way!" Open your mind! Take the idea and think about making the idea work for us!

Tara's Favorite Shows from AACT Fest Nationals

These TBP could *possibly* do:

Leading Ladies – farce, funny, no swearing but needs impeccable timing! Five men, two women, one set. Check out at www.kenludwig.com

God of Carnage – comedy with two couples who each have an 11 year old son. Needs really strong actors! Great physical comedy and dialogue. More info at <http://plays.about.com/> See author Yasmina Reza.

Tuesdays with Morrie – two men, one to play 30-40 year old, one 60-80 with prodigious memorizing capability. Funny, sad, touching.

Gillian on Her 37th Birthday – two girls to play 16 year old, two men to play 30-50, three women to play 30-50. According to my research, this play was turned into a pretty bad movie! Couldn't find the play!

Other Favorites---go see them if you can

Golda—a one woman show about Golda Meir....I know, sounds boring, but it was awesome!

Radium Girls—won the festival, but not my favorite. Great show, however.

Cradle and All—came in third. A young couple trying to get their baby to fall asleep. Sad, fraught, funny, and as all you parents can imagine: lots of swearing!!!!

CTAM Conference—Time to Plan

Take a moment between trips to the beach to think about the last weekend in September: it's the Community Theater of Michigan's fall conference. Lots of fun, lots to learn, not lots of miles and a pre-conference party at Carol and Alan Kushion's beautiful estate (it is more estate, than house with the garden and grounds). Go on the CTAM website at www.communitytheater.com . It's Friday, September 28 to Sunday, September 30.



Congratulations to Tara Western by Michal Jacot

The Iosco County Community Foundation presents awards to people in our area who have done great work to keep our communities going. They present a Philanthropist's Award and a Champion's Award, the latter of which is being awarded to two people this year.

One of those people is our very own Tara Western, whose good work in our county is being recognized. Tara, of course, has been a major part of the Tawas Bay Players since its first season, but she is also active in many other volunteer pursuits, particularly with the Iosco County library system. Congratulations to Tara for the Champion's Award! She truly is deserving of this recognition!

Teens are an Asset by Diane Ray

Sometimes one overlooks the fact that many teens who grew up in the Tawas Bay Players come back to act in or work on shows even after they graduate from High School.

I am referring to Dennis Szatkowski Jr, Diane Meyer, Patricia King, Michael Chadwick, Sunny Ragan, Jon Shaffer, David Ryan, John Collard, Shane Whitford, Erica Tatum, Brian & Brandon Crossnoe, Brianna Dalton, Steven Morris to name a few. Maybe you can think of others who help whenever they are asked. These young people may very well be our future board members, directors, producers, set designers and playwrights. How else will we grow as a community theater unless we nurture and teach the young people?

I think that it is vital that we take the time to teach our youth all aspects of community theater. Why not have interns at each position – from directing all the way to tech positions. It would certainly ease the load on the same people all the time.

A community theater dies if it doesn't learn and grow. I don't think that it is a waste of time to teach responsibility and pride in a job well done.

Blast from the Past! by Tara Western

How long have you been around? Ten years? 20? Well, the first Shmina to trod the TBP's boards was not Elaine in this spring's *The Music Man*, nor Mendy from the Singers, *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Into the Woods* among others, but Jim!



Jim Shmina, Mendy's brother in law, the lovely Tom's brother and Elaine's son, first appeared in the chorus of *Once upon a Mattress* in the spring of 1995. Jim, a fabulous actor, after that chorus debut, appeared in all three shows of the 1995-96 season. He was the romantic lead in *No Sex, Please, We're British*, the Shakespearean actor lead in *I Hate Hamlet*, and a chorus part in *Do Black Patent Shoes Really Reflect Up?* He was also in

Martial Blitz, a Michal Jacot play, and our first at the playhouse. Jim also appeared in shows with the Bay City Players and in Anchorage Alaska.

With Jim recently home from Kuwait and/or Afghanistan, Elaine hosted an open house in his honor at her home in AuGres. Jim held a press conference to answer the many questions about his life in the past two years...well, actually his uncle grilled him about his time in the Middle east maintaining a military base for a private company. It was soooooooooo interesting, and a good way to let everyone hear about Jim, from the horse's mouth, and only once! Best wishes and be safe, Jim!

Indiana Wants Me: My Road Trip to See My "Grandpa" by Michal Jacot

A couple of years ago we did *Insane With Power*, and its author, Scott Haan, and his wife Rhonda drove up from Indiana to see the show, support our group, and visit with Laurie and me. Scott and I are great friends, and lead eerily parallel lives; we've decided that one of us is the antimatter duplicate of the other, or perhaps the same guy from alternate timelines. Yeah, that's right, we're geeks.

Scott acted as director for Clinton County Civic Theatre's production of *Happy Birthday, Dear Grandpa*, one of my published scripts (my first one, actually). I've seen "Grandpa" done before by other groups, and it has been performed all over the U.S., Canada, and even Newfoundland. But it's been a while since I've gotten a chance to see a production. So when Scott told me he was directing it, I made plans to be there.

Laurie and the kids weren't able to go, so off I went to Indiana on my own. Since I had never been there, I may as well have been driving to Oz. So, armed with maps that even a five-year-old could decipher, I hit the road. The trip passed without incident right up to the last twenty minutes, where I kept ending up on the wrong road. After driving back and forth for a while, I drove up to a motorcycle gang in a bar parking lot and asked for directions. They were very nice; they didn't beat me up or anything. But even following their directions, I *still* ended up on the wrong road. It wasn't until I asked someone else about it that I found out that the road I was looking for and the road I was on were actually the same road with two different names. Once I cleared up that little mystery, I was at my hotel in five minutes.

The play was slated for Saturday night, and I arrived on Friday night, which allowed me a full day on Saturday to explore and get lost some more. That evening I hooked up with Scott and Rhonda, and off we went to the theatre. Clinton County Civic Theatre performs in a beautiful 200-seat facility. Scott told me there was plenty of food backstage. Well, I thought, there's always plenty of stuff to nibble on backstage at our shows too. But apparently this group's concept of "food backstage" was different from mine. I was used to a veggie or fruit tray, maybe some crackers and dip. These people had tables full of lasagna, salads, cheesy potatoes, desserts, anything you wanted and enough to feed an army. I like people who are serious about their food intake.

Before the show started, Scott stepped out on stage and made his welcome speech, introduced me, and had me stand and wave to thunderous applause (well, okay, a little old lady smiled at me, but her false teeth knocking together sounded thunderous). It is to my credit that I didn't walk into any plate glass windows through the night (you'll have to ask Laurie, Pat Casey or Pam Koepke about details on that one...).



And there's Grandpa, face down in the birthday cake. Not exactly what was called for in the Duncan Hines recipe.

Happy Birthday, Dear Grandpa was a hilarious night, and easily the best performance of it I've ever seen. The cast was on top of their game, getting laughs from every line and every bit. A key scene involving a character plopping face down in a birthday cake was a showstopper, one of those great scenes where the actors got laughs just from their reactions, and had to wait for the audience's laughter to die down before they could proceed. Ya gotta love this stuff, it's like adrenalin!

After the show we trekked to one of the cast's beautiful home for some partying. I was struck by how alike theatre people are. Except for the new faces, these people could have been my friends at the Tawas Bay Players ...

laughing about the play, dissecting and analyzing their performances, and, of course, telling stories of community theatre past. It was a great time. On Sunday after meeting up once more with Scott for breakfast, I headed home. It was a fun theatre weekend; it was so great to see my friend Scott again, and it was fun to see the stamp that he, as director, put on my script. And hey, I think my wife and kids even missed me while I was gone!

And a Little More About Michal...

Just released from Eldridge

A Deal In The Desert by Michal Jacot

Cast: 4 m, 3 w (Extras as customers and 2 children.)

Script: 44 pages. About an hour.

Two married couples pool their resources to buy a diner in the middle of the desert. Excited and enthusiastic at first, they come to realize their dream isn't turning out to be the success they wanted. Unable to afford to fix the diner's broken sign or pave the dusty parking lot, the hoped-for customers continue to drive by without stopping. Inside the diner, with failing equipment and dwindling funds, the two couples discover they can't even sell the building for a portion of what they paid for it. They are about to give up in desperation when a handsome, charming stranger walks into their lives. Suddenly, things turn around for them. But they soon find that there are tradeoffs on everything, and everything comes with a price. A moody, atmospheric drama filled with suspicion, tension and chills.

Congratulations to Michal for yet another release and we look forward to more articles about Michal's travel adventures.



Happy Birthday



August

4 Brenda Chadwick
4 Reesie Smith
4 Amanda Denney
5 Taylor Huitema
6 Donna Dahlstrom
10 Anne Powers
12 June Hudgins
15 Jeff Chadwick
15 Brian Shmina
20 Shirley Robson
21 Sally Krueger
23 Bob Zacharias
23 Sharon Huitema
23 Charleson Stuart
24 Susan Rook
29 Pam Koepke
30 Barbara Spencer
31 Phyllis Spencer

September

4 Jenny Zacharias
10 Eileen Brewer
13 Jade Archambault
17 Nancy Orrell
21 Tara Western
24 Katelyn Good
24 Tina Brewer
25 Lilyana Denney
27 Tom King
30 Vicki Sanborn

October

3 Judy Wenzel
4 Nadeen O'Meara
4 Trisha Evans
6 Chelewynne Shurt
7 Emily (Groff) Marciniak
11 Theresa Boensch
13 Tom O'Malley
15 Michelle Agnello
16 June Wygant
16 Suzette Rodriguez
16 Catherine Boesch
18 Brady Jacot
18 Gail Morris
21 Nate Rowell
22 Jenae Evans
22 William Wade
23 Annge Klinger
24 Jolene Grusecki
30 Autumn Norman

A Touching Tribute from Tim Haskin

More than a year ago, my mom did pass, with her's a part of me.
Those who've lost a mom or dad, have my deepest sympathy.
Dads and moms, our link to life, through the miracle of birth.
Mine gave so much to help me grow, they taught me of life's worth.
Every day I miss them both, give thanks for all they've done.
I take some solace, as I know one day, we'll reunite as one.
Whatever man I have become, my foundation they did teach.
No matter where I am or go, their memories in my reach.
My brother too does feel the loss, we share despair and love.
We're both relieved their pain is gone, and they're watching from above.
The Haskin bro's are very blessed, though we'll never be the same.
Thanks for cards or gifts you sent, contributions in our name.
We were blessed to have our parents for, so many, many years.
The time that's passed has helped us heal, and stopped most of our tears.
Still today a tear may fall, but good memories have replaced.
The sadness of the loss we feel, and those tears upon our face.
I tried to write a thank you note, but emotions ran too high.
So I waited for some time to pass, took time to say goodbye.
I truly thank you very much, heartfelt appreciation.
Your acknowledgement and sympathy, helped ease my consternation.
My mom and dad were wonderful, big hearts they were endowed.
I hope to carry on their name, and always make them proud.
I cherish every one of you, my thanks are most sincere.
Again, I miss her every day, good memories keep her near.

Written by Timothy Dean Haskin—2012-2013

Music Man Photos



